

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION POLAR

SECSTATE WASHDC 2899

UNCLAS OSLO 6229

STATE FOR "SEIDNER"

PASS IOP/F

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ SCI, NO

SUBJ: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE-ANTARCTIC

TWO-MAN NORWEGIAN TV TEAM LED BY BETERAN REPORTER HAAKON
BORDE WILL ACCOMPANY THREE-MONTH NORWEGIAN EXPEDITION
TO ANTARCTIC BEGINNING EARLY JANUARY. BORDE AND
CAMERA MAN WILL BE ABOARD NORWEGIAN SHIP "POLARSIRKEL"
TO COVER NORWEGIAN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES, BUT WOULD
ALSO LIKE TO GIVE COVERAGE BETTER BALANCE BY REPORTING
ON U.S. ACTIVITIES, WHICH--AS HE NOTES ARE"BY FAR
THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE ANTARCTIC." TO DO THIS,
WOULD NEED RELY ON O.U.S. AIR TRANSPORT, FOR WHICH
NORWEGIAN TV PREPARED TO PAY.

REQUEST IOP/F CONTACT NSF OR OTHER APPROPRIATE
OFFICE AND IF POSSIBLE ARRANGE VISIT TO ONE OR MORE
U.S. ANTARCTIC STATIONS. REQUEST ADVISE PRIOR
CHRISTMAS, SINCE BORDE DEPARTING OSLO WITH NORWEGIAN
EXPEDITION DECEMBER 28 FOR ARGENTINA TO BOARD "POLAR-
SIRKEL."

ACCORDING TO BORDE, "POLARSIRKEL" WILL ARRIVE 15-DEGREES
WEST JANUARY 8 TO PUT LAND PARTY ASHORE ON RIISER-
LARSEN ICE. FROM THERE, VESSEL WILL PROCEED INTO
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WEDDEL SEA FOR SEISMIC SURVEYS, ZIGZAGGING ABOUT

200 KILOMETERS OFFSHORE FOR NEXT FORTNIGHT. WILL PASS BRITISH HALLEY BAY BASE ABOUT JAN.15 AND ARGENTINE GENERAL BELGRAVE BASE ABOUT FEB.1. FROM THERE, SHIP WILL PROCEED TO 74 DEGREES SOUTH 37 DEGREES WEST WHERE OCEANOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT TO BE LAUNCHED. IN ROUGHLY THIS POSITION, "POLARSIRKEL" WILL RENDEZVOUS WITH U.S. ICEBREAKER "BURTON ISLAND" WHICH CARRIES HELICOPTER. "POLARSIRKEL" WILL THEN SPEND FEB 5 TO 10 AT ICE EDGE IN GOULD BAY IF ICE CONDITIONS FAVORABLE. SHIP WILL RETURN TO 15 DEGREES WEST TO PICK UP LAND PARTY FEB 20 FROM RIISER-LARSEN ICE.

BORDE SAYS HE BELIEVES CLOSEST U.S. BASE IS SIPLE STATION, THOUGH 1970 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP INDICATES ELLSWORTH AND SKY-HI STATIONS ALSO IN AREA. BORDE WOULD ALSO OF COURSE SEIZE ANY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY TRAVEL SOUTH POLE ITSELF.

AS RESULT OF TRIP, BORDE PLANS PRODUCE THREE 20 MINUTE SPECIALS AND SIX FIVE MINUTE NEWS SPOTS.

ANY COVERAGE OF U.S. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE ARRANGED WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT SUPPORT TO POST OBJECTIVE.

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